

STORY 7.

POLITICAL HONESTY IN ISLAMIC HISTORY.

SUCH of the conquered non-Muslims as did not agree to fight in the armies of Islam had to pay a light tax called the Jazia, in return for the protection which they enjoyed under the Aegis of Islam.

The Roman legions of Heraclius had suffered repeated reverses at the hands of the Muslims. Driven to desperation the Ceaser had made up his mind to requisition all the resources of his vast empire to try conclusions with the Arabs in a final decisive battle, and Antioch was fixed as the rendezvous of the Christian armies.

When (Hazrat) Abu Obeida the Muslim commander came to know of these vast preparations he decided to evacuate such of the conquered territories as he could not hold and to concentrate at Damascus where he made up his mind to make a determined stand.

But before evacuating these territories he did something which will always remain memorable in the annals of conquering nations. He gave back all the money realised as Jazia from the conquered people, telling them that as the Muslims were not in a position to protect them they had no right to the tax.

The effect of this unexpected act of unprecedented fairness was that the Jews and the Christian prayed for the victorious and speedy return of the Muslims.

This is a unique example of political honesty which the history of no other nation shows.